

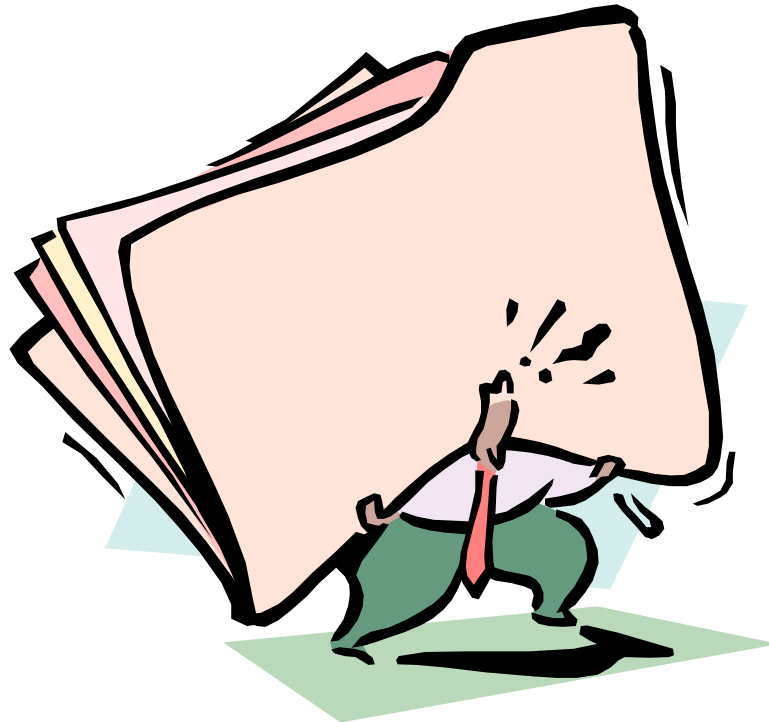
MEDICAL LICENSURE



The State of the States

128 Years of History

- Medical Boards have essentially been doing business the same way for over a century.



68 Medical and Osteopathic Boards

- 68 ways of doing business
- 68 separate credentialing verification systems
- Core requirements are essentially the same

Medical Board Functions

- License applicants with appropriate credentials
- Discipline for professional misconduct
- Ongoing clinical competency

Purposes of Licensure

- Primary purpose is to protect the public
- Licensure is a review of education and training
- Licensure evaluates medical knowledge
- Licensure allows evaluation of character
- Reinforces premise that medical practice is a privilege not a right

Purposes of Licensure Continued

- Licensure is an assurance to the public that health care practitioners have attained a minimum standard of professional knowledge and skill appropriate for the profession in which they are licensed.

The US Constitution

- Article X – US Constitution reserves rights to the states that are not specifically delegated to the federal government .
- This makes licensing *in areas not occupied by the federal government* a state function
- When Feds “occupy” an area states are sometimes free to be more restrictive

Core Requirements

- Graduate from approved medical or osteopathic school
- Pass national examination USMLE or COMLEX
- Post graduate (PGY) training in approved program
- IMGs – ECFMG Certificate – other requirements

Endorsement

- **Endorsement** — valid unrestricted license in another state. State “endorses” the documentation examinations, core documents and additional requirements
- **Reciprocity** — not a current term — some professions used to have reciprocal licensing agreements with neighboring states

Endorsement

- 44 states require some endorsement applicants to appear for an interview
- 14 states require endorsement to take place within 10 years or SPEX may be required
- Some osteopathic boards do not accept USMLE for endorsement
- 47 Boards endorse Canadian LMC
- 35 will endorse NBOME
- 29 will Endorse State Board Exam (SBE)

Endorsement for IMGs

- All states except CA and WV require ECFMG ...ND accepts ABMS Certification
- CA and NY maintain a list of approved International Medical School
- Some states, Including RI, require 3 PGY years in ACGME approved program

*Fifth Pathway

- 1971 AMA Established Fifth Pathway for US Citizens studying abroad
 - Requirements:
 - US College acceptable Premed program
 - ECFMG (FAIMER) listed Medical School
 - Completed all course work
 - Fifth Pathway Certificate from US Medical School - Eligible for PGY 1
- (*accepted in 52 Jurisdictions after USMLE Steps 1 & 2)

Limited Licenses

- Typically issued for PGY training
 - 61 jurisdictions offer licenses, permits, certificates or registration
- 14 states require USMLE Part 1
- 16 states require full licensure during part of training

Other Forms of Limited Licenses

52 State Board issue non-educational
limited licenses

- Typically they are one year licenses while applicants wait to pass examination
- Academic Faculty Licenses
- Distinguished physician recruited to teach from International Medical School

Why Can't We All Just Get Along?

- *“You can fool too many people too much of the time.”* – James Thurber
- Each state has built its system on the theory that it does it better than the next state.
- 128 Years of institutional culture

Process for Licensing

- Application
- Credential Verification
- National Practitioner Data Bank Query
- Query other states
- Some States do criminal background



*National Licensure

- More fantasy than reality but.....
- If you are licensed in one state you can....
 - Work in the VA Hospital System
 - Work on military bases federal beneficiaries
 - Indian Reservation
 - National Health Services Corps.
- * US Constitution gives Licensure to States

Consultation Exception

- Most States permit physicians to consult with doctors in another state
- It is required the contact is doctor to doctor
- It is not supposed to substitute for licensure



Portability Demonstration Project

- **Participating states**
 - **Northeast:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island
 - **West:** Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and North Dakota
 - Expressed interest in the concept of license portability
 - Expressed willingness to design and promote the demonstration projects

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